

REMARKS

. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-34 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-34 stand rejected.

The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference.

Claim 1 includes the features of a conductive path being connected to a media support and a heater being connected to the media support through the conductive path. As detailed in the response mailed April 11, 2007, the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference does not disclose a conductive path that is connected or physically joined to a media support or a heater that is connected to the media support through the conductive path.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition, defines the term “connect” as “to join or fasten together.” As such, the term “connect” means something more than merely “in contact with” or “abutted.”

This definition of the term “connect” is consistent with the invention described in Applicants’ application. For example, Applicants state that the extension can be attached or integrally formed with a body portion of the media support, see at least FIGS. 5-7 and at least paragraph [0032] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. As such, Applicants believe that they have positively recited and claimed this feature of the invention. A copy of the definition of the term “connect” is enclosed for easy reference by the Examiner.

The Kitahara et al. ('253) reference discloses that platen 226 is abutted to belt 224 (paragraph [0265]). Therefore, it cannot be said that the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference discloses a conductive path that is connected to a media support.

In the pending office action, the Examiner asserts that a broad and reasonable interpretation of the term “connect” includes the “abutted” feature of

the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference because both terms show a “connecting relationship.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition, defines the term “abut” as “to touch at one end or side of something, lie adjacent.” As such, while both terms may describe a “contact relationship,” the term “abutted” does not describe a “connected, joined, or fastened” relationship. A copy of the definition of the term “abut” is enclosed for easy reference by the Examiner.

In one aspect of Applicants’ invention, the configuration of the heater, extension, and body portion of the media support provides one or more of reduced temperature variation, quicker and more uniform drying, and increased media travel speeds when compared to other media dryer configurations, see at least paragraphs [0034] and [0036] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. In contrast, the slidable contact or abutted relationship between belt 224 and platen 226, see paragraph [0265] of the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference, will result in decreased thermal transfer efficiency between belt 224 and platen 226 when compared to Applicants’ invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 33-34 depending from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Applicants also note that head blocks 245-248 are positioned spaced apart from media support 244 and, as such, are not even in contact with media support 244, see Figure 44 and paragraph [0280] of the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request clarification of this aspect of the rejection from the Examiner in a subsequent office action if a subsequent office action is deemed necessary by the Examiner.

Claims 19, 20, 30, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference.

Claim 19 includes the feature of each of the plurality of heater extensions being connected to the media support. As detailed in the response mailed April

11, 2007, the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference does not disclose a plurality of heater extensions that are connected or physically joined to a media support.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition, defines the term "connect" as "to join or fasten together." As such, the term "connect" means something more than merely "in contact with" or "associated."

This definition of the term "connect" is consistent with the invention described in Applicants' application. For example, Applicants state that the extension can be attached or integrally formed with a body portion of the media support, see at least FIGS. 5-7 and at least paragraph [0032] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. As such, Applicants believe that they have positively recited and claimed this feature of the invention. A copy of the definition of the term "connect" is enclosed for easy reference by the Examiner.

The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that heating device 201 is associated with belt 32 (col. 5, lines 33-35) and that heating device 301 is associated with belts 302 and 303 (col. 5, lines 57-60). The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference also uses reference sign 34 to indicate the location of a print zone (col. 5, line 4). The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference does not disclose that print zone 34 is a media support having a curved surface.

As used in the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference, the term "associated" cannot mean "connected" because it would not be possible to drive or move belts 32, 302, and 303 as described in the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference if any of heating devices 201 or 301 were "joined or fasten together" with any of belts 32, 302, or 303. Therefore, it cannot be said that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that each of the plurality of heater extensions are connected to the media support as described in claim 19. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 30 and 31 depending from claim 19 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 19.

Regarding claim 31, it is submitted that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference uses the term "ironing" to describe a process of sandwiching the paper between belts 32 and 202 (col. 6, lines 42-47) and not a metal as asserted by the Examiner. The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference also discloses that an ironing

mechanism is used to press a sheet into a substantially planer configuration (col. 4, lines 14-16). Additionally, the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that roller 501 which is used to iron the sheet of paper can be made from a soft material such as cellular silicone foam (col. 7, lines 5-10). Therefore, it cannot be said that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses a metal heat conductive material.

Claim 20 includes the feature of providing an extension affixed to a support. As detailed in the response mailed April 11, 2007, the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference does not disclose providing an extension affixed or physically joined to a support.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition, defines the term "affix" as "to secure an object to another." As such, the term "affix" means something more than merely "in contact with" or "associated."

This definition of the term "affix" is consistent with the invention described in Applicants' application. For example, Applicants state that the extension can be attached or integrally formed with a body portion of the media support, see at least FIGS. 5-7 and at least paragraph [0032] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. As such, Applicants believe that they have positively recited and claimed this feature of the invention. A copy of the definition of the term "affix" is enclosed for easy reference by the Examiner.

The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that heating device 201 is associated with belt 32 (col. 5, lines 33-35) and that heating device 301 is associated with belts 302 and 303 (col. 5, lines 57-60). As used in the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference, the term "associated" cannot mean "affixed" because it would not be possible to drive or move belts 32, 302, and 303 as described in the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference if any of heating devices 201 or 301 were "secured" to any of belts 32, 302, or 303. Therefore, it cannot be said that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses providing an extension affixed to a support as described in claim 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Wotton et al. ('618) reference.

Claim 22 includes the feature of a heat conductive extension affixed to a body portion of a media support. As detailed in the response mailed April 11, 2007, the Wotton et al. ('618) reference does not disclose a heat conductive extension affixed or physically joined to a body portion of a media support.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition, defines the term "affix" as "to secure an object to another." As such, the term "affix" means something more than merely "in contact with" or "subjacent."

This definition of the term "affix" is consistent with the invention described in Applicants' application. For example, Applicants state that the extension can be attached or integrally formed with a body portion of the media support, see at least FIGS. 5-7 and at least paragraph [0032] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. As such, Applicants believe that they have positively recited and claimed this feature of the invention. A copy of the definition of the term "affix" is enclosed for easy reference by the Examiner.

The Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses that heating mechanism 411 is subjacent to belt 403 (col. 5, lines 50-52). The Wotton et al. ('618) reference also uses reference sign 205 to indicate a cut sheet of print media (col. 4, line 38). As the cut sheet of print media 205 is transported by belt 403 (col. 5, lines 43 and 44), the cut sheet of print media 205 cannot also be a media support. Therefore, it cannot be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses that a heat conductive extension is affixed to a body portion of the media support. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25 and 29 depending from claim 22 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claims 14 and 15 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara.

Claim 21 depends from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claim 21 patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wotton.

Claims 26-28 depend from claim 22. As such, Applicants consider claims 26-28 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 26-28 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 21 and 26, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claims 21 and 26 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0035 and 0036] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application.

Regarding claim 27, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 27 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraph [0033] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application.

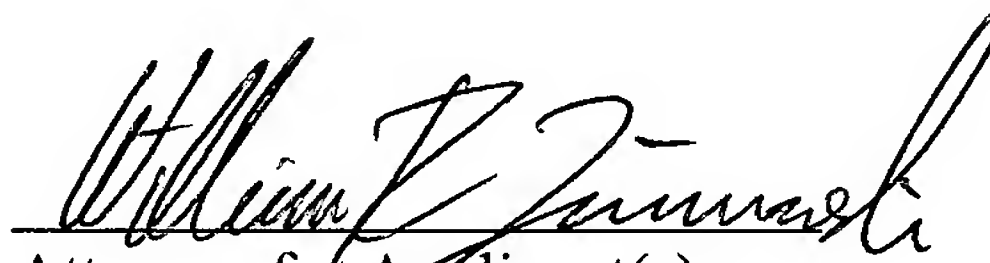
Regarding claim 28, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 28 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0030] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.